



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name: **Inch Lake State Natural Area**

County: **Bayfield**

Property Acreage: **560 Acres**

Forestry Property Code: **401, Compartment 5**

Master Plan Date: **None**

Part 1: Property Assessment

The Inch Lake State Natural Area lies within the Ceded Territory of the state and is located most closely to the Red Cliff Band and Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe.

Native American tribes are independent, sovereign nations, as they were prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America. The Ojibwe Tribes ceded lands in the northern one-third of Wisconsin to the United States government in the Treaties of 1837 and 1842. In those Treaties, they reserved their rights to hunt, trap, fish and gather within various publicly-owned lands. Treaty rights are currently being exercised and implemented by the Ojibwe Tribes within the Ceded Territory.

General Property Description

Landscape and Regional Context

Inch Lake State Natural Area is located within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. The property is found in a region that contains a mix of both private and public ownerships with the largest being Bayfield County Forest and the Chequamegon National Forest. The general area contains uplands that are predominately forested and dominated by northern hardwoods, oak and pine cover types. Forested and unforested wetlands are fairly common in the region as well. The Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes is found just west of this property and forms one of the headwaters regions of the White River.



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Site Specifics

- **History of Land Use:**

The Inch Lake property was acquired by the Department from two different private landowners and designated as a State Natural Area in 2007. No timber management has taken place since the property was acquired by the Department.

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages**

Aspen – 210 acres (38%)
Oak – 203 acres (36%)
White Pine – 71 acres (13%)
Swamp Hardwoods – 6 acres (1%)
Unforested types – 70 acres (12%)

The majority of the aspen coverytype (64%) has reach or is past it's biological maturity. Other coverytypes on site are composed of longer lived species such as oak, white pine and red pine.

- **Biotic Inventory Status** – Biotic Inventory has not been completed on this property.
- **Deferral/Consultation Sites** – None have been designated.
- **High Conservation Value Forest** – Stands of natural-origin pine are present in several areas of the property and are considered HCVF. The shoreline of Inch Lake is entirely undeveloped and also qualifies as HCVF.
- **Rare Species** – The vicinity of the property contains Element Occurrences for uncommon species and natural communities. The NHI database will be screened prior to any management activities taking place.
- **Invasive Species** – Glossy buckthorn is the primary invasive species of concern on the property with most of the infestations found in wetland areas.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites:** There is an archaeological site listed for the property in the Department's database. The location is known and the site will be avoided, per the Department's Archaeologist's directive.
 - **Recreational Uses:** Fishing, hunting, trapping and sightseeing are the primary recreational uses on this property.
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Part 2: IFMP Components

Site Objectives

Throughout the property, manage towards stand conditions that exhibit old-forest characteristics. Where active timber management is used, promote long-lived species. Water quality BMP's for forestry will be utilized for all timber sales.

Inch Lake and Hildur Lake are both wild lakes. Aesthetics should be a high priority for consideration when establishing timber sales. Establish wide BMP zones along the shorelines of both lakes.

Management approach

Stands of aspen and northern hardwoods will be managed to promote natural cover type diversity for this area. Specifically, use timber harvests to increase growth and vigor of the northern hardwoods stands and long-term conversion of the aspen stands to longer-lived species, particularly white and red pine, oak and northern hardwoods. The long-term goal for these stands is to create old-forest characteristics.

The initial harvests are needed to prepare the stands for more options in the future and to reach the property goals sooner. Presently some areas are in less than ideal status for growth and vigor. Apply appropriate silviculture systems when conducting timber management activities.

The only management needed in the wetland types is control of invasive species.

Property Prescriptions (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):

The Northern District Ecologist/Property Manager should be contacted prior to establishment of timber sales on Inch Lake State Natural Area.

All upland timber types – Prescribed fire may be used within upland stands. Burns may be used both to control glossy buckthorn and/or to improve conditions for natural regeneration of oak and pine.

Strong consideration should be given to aesthetics when establishing timber sales near the shorelines of both Inch and Hildur Lakes.

Aspen – Aspen stands will primarily be harvested through periodic patch selection harvests. Harvested patches may be planted to a mix of long-lived conifers including white pine and red pine. This will create opportunities to convert aspen stands to longer-lived species over time. Green tree retention will be practiced in these stands while also focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention. Retention will be concentrated near and between ephemeral ponds, where



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possible. In most cases, pine and oak will be retained, and areas of advanced regeneration of these species will be protected and released.

Oak – Conduct periodic thinnings to improve the growth and vigor of these stands. The release of understory white pine is also a high priority in these stands, in order to diversify the composition of the property. The long-term goal is to create old forest characteristics, including a multi-aged stand, numerous snags and abundant coarse woody debris.

White Pine - Conduct periodic thinnings to improve the growth and vigor of these stands. The release of understory white pine is also a high priority in these stands, in order to diversify the composition of the property. The long-term goal is to create old forest characteristics, including a multi-aged stand, numerous snags and abundant coarse woody debris.

Swamp Hardwoods – No active management will take place in swamp hardwood stands or any of the other wetland cover types.

Approvals:

Northwest District Ecologist

Date

Bayfield County Forester

Date

Property Manager for Inch Lake State Natural Area

Date

Area/Team Supervisor Bayfield County

Date